

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910476925303321
Autore	Ellebrecht Sabrina <p>Sabrina Ellebrecht, Max-Planck-Institut zur Erforschung von Kriminalitä t, Sicherheit und Recht, Deutschland
Titolo	</p>Mediated Bordering : Eurosur, the Refugee Boat, and the Construction of an External EU Border / Sabrina Ellebrecht
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bielefeld, : transcript Verlag, 2020
ISBN	9783839447536 3839447534
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (320 pages)
Collana	Edition Politik
Disciplina	325.21094
Soggetti	Border Studies EU Border and Immigration Policies Border Surveillance and Control Schengen Process Mediterranean Sea Sailing Tall Ship Refugees Refugee Boat Europe Fleeing Migration European Politics Migration Policy Refugee Studies Political Science
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Sommario/riassunto

The external border of the EU remains under permanent construction. Sabrina Ellebrecht engages with two of its primary building sites – the European Border Surveillance System (Eurosur) and the Refugee Boat. She analyzes how the function and quality of the EU's current political border is crafted, shaped, produced and eventually stabilized through these two mediators. Eurosur and the Refugee Boat mediate a level of Europeanization which has hitherto – and would otherwise have – been impossible. While Eurosur mobilizes the limits of border policing in various ways, the Refugee Boat functions as the vacillating European Other to legitimize both control and humanitarian interventions. The study shows the specific, if not constitutive, ambivalences of EU border policies, and explores the emergence of viapolitics.
Besprochen in: InfoDienst Migration, 3 (2020)
